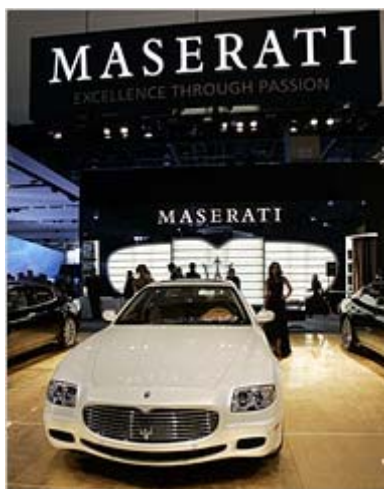


## Shifting Strategy, Maserati Finally Adds an Automatic

By NICK KURCZEWSKI  
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**Introduced on Monday:** [Maserati Quattroporte](#) Automatic



STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images

**Is it real?** It's very real, and arriving at Maserati dealerships in a matter of weeks.

**What's the point?** Maserati, finally bowing to criticism of its DuoSelect electrohydraulic transmission, fitted a conventional six-speed automatic to its flagship luxury sedan.

**What they said:** "We have invested in Maserati many millions of dollars to ensure that we meet the expectations of our buyers," Roberto Ronchi, chief executive and general manager of Maserati, said.

**What they didn't say:** That Maserati buyers expect a transmission that doesn't buck and shudder like an A.M.C. Gremlin with bad spark plugs. With the arrival of the Automatic version, DuoSelect-equipped Quattroportes are likely to gather dust in showrooms.

**What makes it tick?** The 400-horsepower 4.2-liter V-8 is untouched, thank goodness. With the automatic, all this power can finally be delivered to the pavement with some degree of civility.

**How much, how soon?** Prices have not been announced. Depending on options, we think the Quattroporte Automatic should cost between \$110,000 and \$120,000 when it arrives in the coming weeks.

**How's it look?** Unless you crawl under the car for a peek at the new transmission, it's all standard Quattroporte. The car has always been a looker; it's the balky transmission that needed a makeover.

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